

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /079 W

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R 040842Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2479

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USNATO BRUSSELS 548

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0441

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, BU, UK

SUBJECT: UK-BULGARIAN CSCE REVIEW: PROCEDURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS OF BELGRADE CONFERENCE

REF: A) SOFIA 2705; B) SOFIA 2733

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR CLOAKE HAS GIVEN US DETAILED BRIEFING ON HIS THREE-AND-ONE-HALF HOUR SESSION ON CSCE AND BELGRADE WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TSVETKOV FEB 15. SESSION WAS ORIGINALLY TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN LONDON, BUT SINCE HIS GOVT WAS UNABLE TO RECEIVE TSVETKOV THE AMBASSADOR HAD ASKED FOR "A VERY FULL BRIEF" TO HAVE THE DISCUSSION IN SOFIA; AND IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT TSVETKOV ON HIS PART ALSO HAD A VERY FULL

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BRIEF. NINETY PERCENT OF THE DISCUSSION WAS BOILERPLATE, BUT SOME ELEMENTS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST EMERGED. THIS MESSAGE DEALS WITH PROCEDURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS OF BELGRADE.

2. UK AMB SAID HIS GOVT ENVISAGED DURATION 4 TO 6 WEEKS FOR PREPARATIONS, AND MAIN MEETING IF EFFICIENTLY

ORGANIZED COULD CONCLUDE ITS TASK IN THREE MONTHS. THIS WAS OPTIMUM DURATION, BUT COULD BE PROLONGED BY CONSENSUS AS NECESSARY. TSVETKOV SAID GOB AGREED AND "HOPED THE MEETING WOULD BE OVER BY CHRISTMAS." ON LEVEL OF UK REPRESENTATION AMB SAID FOR PREPARATORY MEETING IT WOULD BE AT SENIOR OFFICIAL LEVEL, AND A DEPUTY MINISTER WOULD ATTEND PART OF THE REGULAR MEETING. TSVETKOV SHADED THIS A BIT BY SAYING GOB AGREED AND AT MAIN MEETING A DEPUTY MINISTER "MIGHT" BE PRESENT FOR PART OF THE TIME.

3. RE PARTICIPATION OF MEDITERRANEAN STATES UK AMB SAID HIS GOVT FELT BELGRADE WAS PRIMARILY FOR EUROPEAN STATES, MEDITERRANEANS HAD OTHER PREOCCUPATIONS, AND UK "LIKELY TO OPPOSE PARTICIPATION GOING BEYOND PATTERN SET DURING CSCE NEGOTIATIONS." TSVETKOV SAID HE AGREED, PATTERN OF GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE CONTINUED, OTHERWISE MEETING APT TO BE DIVERTED INTO DISCUSSION MIDDLE EASTERN PROBLEMS. STAIKOV (BULGARIAN CSCE EXPERT) ASKED FOR UK VIEWS ABOUT ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCE. UK AMB SAID WHILE HIS GOVT STILL STUDYING MATTER, "SPEAKING PERSONALLY WE MIGHT FAVOR THE GENEVA PATTERN, MIXTURE OF PLENARIES AND COMMITTEES." TSVETKOV SAID THIS WAS GOB POSITION ALSO.

4. ON AGENDA THE BULGARIAN POSITION EMERGED AS SOMEWHAT MORE NEBULOUS. TSVETKOV SAID THAT WHILE NO FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN MADE HE ENVISAGED THAT "EACH PARTICIPANT SHOULD MAKE A PRESENTATION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION OF FINAL ACT COVERING ALL ITEMS SO THAT AN ASSESSMENT COULD BE MADE

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OF ALL THE POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS MADE UNDER THE FINAL ACT" (WHICH WOULD SEEM TO EXCLUDE CRITICAL COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE). HE SAID MEETING SHOULD ALSO DISCUSS FURTHER MEETINGS AND NEW INITIATIVES LIKE THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT. SWISS PROPOSAL ON PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AND YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL ON YEAR OF EUROPEAN CULTURE SHOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

5. SEPARATE TEL WILL DEAL WITH DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE POINTS AND VARIOUS OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE COMMUNIST MANEUVERS THAT EMERGED DURING DISCUSSION.

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